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ECE country studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: follow-up and policy implications

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Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Belarus

Summary

The Government of the Republic of Belarus is implementing an action plan for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. The plan takes into account priority areas identified in the UNECE needs assessment study that was carried out in 2011.

The Government wishes to bring this plan to the attention of the Committee on Trade for information.

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Programme level action matrix for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Republic of Belarus

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
The state programme of information technologies implementation in Belarus for 2003 - 2005 and till 2010 ("Electronic Belarus")	Design a unified automated information system for Customs administration based on international standards recommended by the World Customs Organization	- Simplified and standardized customs procedures -Goods are cleared in a shorter time frame (5 folds faster). - Collection, processing and analysis of information is conducted in "real time" mode - Information is centralized in a unified information system that is maintained by the customs. - Violations of customs regulations are effectively pre-empted. -Improved flow of information and data exchange for supporting customs procedures and decision-making processes.	2003-2005	State Customs Committee of Belarus (SCC)
	Institutionalize the unified automated information system for customs administration for improving the quality of Customs services	- Customs officers no longer deal with routine manual operations and focus on control and analytical functions - Customs procedures are implemented in an effective and efficient manner - Transaction costs facing traders are reduced to minimum levels	2008-2010	SCC
	Develop and implement the interdepartmental distributed information system "Data Bank of e-passports of goods"	- Reduction of the conformity assessment costs for the participants of foreign economic activity - Increase the effectiveness of the conformity assessment procedures and the foreign trade regulation due to the implementation of EDI	2009-2010	Gosstandart, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, National Academy of Sciences
The state program for the	Develop inspection facilities	- Improved efficiency and effectiveness of	2011-2015	Ministry of Transport, SCC, State

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
development of Belarus' transit potential for 2011-2015	at border crossing points located at main road and railway stations and transit routes, and introducing information and communication systems for supporting customs and other types of controls	control functions at border crossing points (border guards, customs, transport inspection and others). - Waiting time is reduced to minimum levels; - Improved information flows and data exchange between control agencies at border crossing points - Necessary requirements are taken for continuation of consultations with the European Union on cooperation in transport and customs spheres, and the unification of customs clearance procedures for goods and vehicles.		Border Committee, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture
Improving risk assessment and management systems at main border crossing points[1]	Increase the effectiveness of control procedures at main border crossing points	- Reduction of time and financial costs associated with customs and other types of border controls . - Create common risk profiles for main border control agencies. - Optimization of the border control officers work load and increasing the effectiveness of border control systems	2010-2015	SCC, State Border Guard
Creation of the public Advisory Council under the State customs Committee of Belarus[2]	Implement the principle of public private partnership for improving customs procedures	- Customs administration improved - Optimal conditions are created for business with regard to the implementation of customs procedures and regulations - Cost and time of carrying out export-import procedures are reduced	2012	SCC

[1] The concept of risk assessment and management system for the period of 2010-2015 and in perspective to 2020; the Regulations on the risk assessment and management system and some issues of customs bodies and national authorities interaction in the framework of the system

[2] The Regulations on the Social and Advisory Council under the State Customs Committee of Belarus, Decree of the Chairman of Belarus State Customs Committee № 328-OD, dated 03.08.2012

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Programme for the development of automated logistics information systems for the period till 2015	Realize Belarus' transit potential within the international transport corridors	- Modern information systems and software developed for supporting the preparation of the customs declaration and support documents by traders - Electronic documents are developed for supporting transport and logistics processes	2009-2015	Ministry of Transport, SCC, Ministry of Communications, Beltamozservice
Two services at the border[3]	Implement the principle of coordinated border management	- Transfer to the SCC the control functions of the following border control agencies (located at the border crossing points): vehicle inspection, veterinary inspection, phytosanitary inspection and the sanitary inspection. The current border management system under the control of customs is limited to the coordination of the activities of border control services; the determination of the place for submission the documents and the execution of control operations for the transport, veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary inspections; the coordination of information flows and technical support of the border control agencies. - Transfer to the State Border Guard sanitary and quarantine inspection of persons.	2013	SCC, State Border Guard, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Transport
TAIEX — Technical Assistance and Information Exchange	Provide theoretical and practical seminars aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the EU conformity assessment practices and legislation.	- Increased effectiveness of the conformity assessment procedures in Belarus - Facilitation of mutual recognition agreements between Belarus and the EU in order to avoid re-testing and re-certification	2013	Gosstandard
The Single Electronic	Create the single electronic	- Simplification of administrative procedures	2014-2015	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[3] On the improvements of the border crossing procedures for the physical persons, vehicles and goods across the state border of Belarus, Decree of the CM of Belarus № 309, dated 24.04.2013

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
Document for Foreign trade Deal and the Single Foreign Trade Portal	data exchange window for traders and agencies and the implementation of a single electronic document of trade deals, replacing a number of paper documents.	for exporters and importers of goods. - Reduction of administrative burden on businesses. - Reduction of time and financial costs for traders due to decreasing number of documents and avoiding duplication of data presented to various regulatory authorities. - Transformation of paper documents into electronic documents.		
Support the quality control infrastructure - Food safety	Improve the Belarusian system of food safety and quality assurance through gradual convergence with the EU quality infrastructure	- Belarus' legislation in the field of accreditation is compliant with the EC Regulation 765/2008, the international standards and the European accreditation practice for joining the international and regional accreditation organizations of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA). - New agreements on the mutual recognition of conformity assessment	2012-2014	Gosstandart
Implementation of the coordinated policy in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the Eurasian Economic Community[4]	Implement commitments within the context of the Eurasian Economic Community	- Adoption of common rules of technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary controls. - Harmonization of standards.[5] - Application of common forms and rules for conformity assessment and its general harmonization. - Development and application of comparable test (control and measurement) methods for conformity assessment of products or		Gosstandart

[4] Agreement on conducting coordinated policy in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the Eurasian Economic Community, dated 25.01.2009.
[5] Agreement on the fundamentals of harmonization of technical regulations of the Eurasian Economic Community member states, dated 24.03.2005.

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
		production processes. - Accreditation of conformity assessments bodies and testing laboratories involved in the process of mandatory conformity assessments. [6] - Use of common forms of documents on the conformity assessment adopted with the technical regulations of the Customs Union.[7] - Application of the single conformity assessments sign of the Customs Union member States.[8] - Application of the Unified list of products subject to the mandatory conformity assessment in the Customs Union with the issuance of common documents.[9]		
Creation of information system of the Eurasian economic community in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures[10]	Develop the information flow and data exchange between the Eurasian economic community member states in the areas of technical regulation, sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary measures	- Provision and exchange of information on the documents of the member states in the technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary controls - Provision the information support for the processes of technical regulations development in the Eurasian economic community - Mutual recognition of the accreditation of the certification (conformity assessment) bodies and testing laboratories responsible for conformity assessment (confirmation)[11].	2009	Gosstandart

[6] The single registry of certification bodies and testing laboratories (centres) of the Customs Union, the Decision of the Customs Union Commission of 07.04.2011, № 620

[7] The Agreement on common principles and rules of technical regulation in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, dated 18.11.2010

[8] The Agreement on the application of the single mark for products on the market of States-members of the Eurasian economic community, dated 19.05.2006

[9] The Unified list of products subject to mandatory conformity assessment (confirmation) in the Customs Union with the issuance of common documents, Decision of the Commission of the Customs Union № 620, dated 07.04.2011,

[10] The Agreement on creation of information system of the Eurasian economic community in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the Decision of the EurAsEC interstate Council № 400, dated 12.12.2008

[11] The Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation of certification bodies (conformity assessment (confirmation)) and testing laboratories (centres), performing conformity assessment (confirmation) , dated 11.12.2009, and the Agreement on mutual recognition of results of works on accreditation in conformity assessment, dated 21.05.2003

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Creation of the integrated information system of the Customs Union.[12]	Create the integrated information system for supporting interstate data and electronic documents exchange in relation to the following types of control: customs; tax; phytosanitary; veterinary; sanitary; transport.	- Removal of legal barriers to use of electronic documents in foreign and mutual trade on the basis of unification of information requirements and electronic documents in the sphere of customs	2010	SCC
Euro-Asian cooperation of national metrological institutions	Implement the Agreement of the International Committee for weights and measures on mutual recognition of national measurement standards and calibration and measurement certificates issued by the national metrology institutes	- Reduction of transaction costs (finance and time wise) associated with conformity assessment procedures based on recognition of national metrology certificates		Gosstandart
Assessment of technical barriers to trade in the Republic of Belarus in the context of obligations under the Customs Union Common economic space, the regulation of the Eurasian economic community (EURASEC) and the requirements of the WTO agreement	Assist the Government of Belarus in acceding the WTO by strengthening national expertise and building institutional capacity, improving the national technical regulation in accordance with regional and international standards	- Decreasing the technical barriers to trade - Improving the technical regulation in Belarus according to the international and regional best practice	2013	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[12] The Agreement on establishment, operation and development of integrated information system of foreign and mutual trade of the Customs Union, dated 21.09.2010, and the Agreement on application of information technologies when exchanging electronic documents in foreign and mutual trade of the customs territory of the Customs Union, 21.09.2010

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
The assistance to the Government of the Republic of Belarus in the WTO accession through strengthening the national expertise and institutional capacity	Assist the Government of Belarus in accession to the WTO by strengthening national expertise and building institutional capacity, improving the foreign trade policy, and raising the awareness about the benefits and consequences of the WTO accession.	- Technical barriers to trade removed - Technical regulation in Belarus compliant with international best practices - Implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation	03/2008 – 07/2013	Ministry of Foreign Affairs